



10/8/2014

HEALTH ADVISORY

CHILDREN WITH ACUTE NEUROLOGIC ILLNESS WITH FOCAL LIMB WEAKNESS OF UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY AND ACUTE FLACCID PARALYSIS - ALL AGES

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ADVISORY IS TO PROVIDE AWARENESS OF TWO NEUROLOGIC SYNDROMES UNDER INVESTIGATION WITH THE AIM OF DETERMINING IF PATIENTS WITH SIMILAR CLINICAL AND RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS ARE BEING CARED FOR IN OTHER AREAS.

Background

Since August 2012, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has been following several cases of unexplained acute flaccid paralysis throughout the state. A significant number of cases have been identified, primarily affecting younger age groups (median age: 12 years). Polio virus is not the cause but clinical and imaging findings are similar to those seen in poliomyelitis. Patients have suffered from long-term disability with minimal improvement after diagnosis.

More recently, CDC is working closely with partners in Colorado and other state and local health departments to investigate an acute neurologic illness of unknown etiology occurring in children. Characterized by focal limb weakness and abnormalities of the spinal cord gray matter on MRI, a cluster of these illnesses was first reported from Colorado in September 2014. These neurological findings are coincident with an increase of respiratory illnesses among children, but causation, if any, is currently unclear. Refer to <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00370.asp> for updates regarding this evolving situation.

The California Department of Public Health is conducting enhanced viral testing and surveillance for patients with these conditions.

Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:

1. **Enhanced surveillance** for Acute Flaccid Paralysis in All Ages and Children with Acute Neurologic Illness with focal limb weakness of unknown etiology
2. **Report** patients to **Contra Costa Public Health (CCPH) at (925) 313-6740** for patients meeting the following criteria:

Acute Flaccid Paralysis; Patients of any age

Patient (without prior neurologic illness) who presents with:

Acute flaccid paralysis, including absent or significantly diminished reflexes in one or more limbs

AND

EMG showing anterior horn cell disease **OR**

MRI showing grey matter involvement of the spinal cord

With or without accompanying mental status changes

Without a confirmed traumatic, neoplastic, or vascular etiology

Acute Neurologic Illness; Patients ≤ 21 years of age with

- 1) Acute onset of focal limb weakness occurring on, or after, August 1, 2014;

AND

- 2) An MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter

3. **Consult** with Contra Costa Public Health Lab at **(925) 370-5775** for specimen submission and laboratory testing for enteroviruses, West Nile virus and other known infectious etiologies.

